

CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1 1. An audio/visual system coupled to a computer, said computer having at least one
2 memory, said audio/visual system comprising:
3 a rendering circuit, said rendering circuit having a memory;
4 an emulation circuit coupled to the rendering circuit, comprising:
5 a memory for storing instruction sequences;
6 a processor coupled to said memory, the processor executes the stored
7 instruction sequences;
8 an audio/visual apparatus coupled to the rendering circuit and the emulation circuit, said
9 audio/visual apparatus having a memory;
10 a display coupled to the rendering circuit;
11 wherein the stored instruction sequences cause the processor to (a) retrieve information
12 stored in one of said memory of said audio/visual apparatus or said memory of said computer; (b)
13 forward said information to said rendering circuit for processing; (c) forward said processed
14 information to said display; (d) display the processed information.

1 2. The system of Claim 1, wherein said emulation circuit is coupled to a remote
2 computer network.

1 3. The system of Claim 2, wherein the remote computer network is selected from a
2 group consisting of: a global computer network, a local area network, and a wide area network.

1 4. The system of Claim 1, wherein said audio/visual apparatus is selected from a
2 group consisting of a digital versatile disk system, a digital video cassette recorder, an audio
3 display and a television.

1 5. The system of Claim 1, wherein in (b) said processing comprises decompressing
2 said information.

1 6. The system of Claim 1, wherein in (b) said processing comprises formatting
2 said information.

1 7. The system of Claim 1, further comprising packetizing said information for
2 distribution to a home network system.

1 8. The system of Claim 2, further comprising: determining if said information is
2 stored in one of said memory of said audio/visual apparatus or said memory of said computer; if
3 so, retrieving said information from one of said memory of said audio/visual apparatus or said
4 memory of said computer, otherwise, retrieving said information from said remote
5 computer network.

1 9. The system of Claim 8, further comprising storing information retrieved from said
2 remote network on said memory of one of said audio/visual apparatus or said computer.

1 10. The system of Claim 8, further comprising transcoding information retrieved from
2 said remote network.

1 11. The system of Claim 10, wherein said transcoding is performed by said computer.

1 12. The system of Claim 8, further comprising a remote control, said remote control
2 to issue a control signal that is converted by said audio/visual system to a network command for
3 retrieving said information.

1 13. The system of Claim 1, wherein said audio/visual apparatus is coupled to a
2 network comprising a plurality of audio/visual apparatus, and said information may be retrieved
3 from one of said plurality of audio/visual apparatus.

1 14. The system of Claim 2, wherein the stored instruction sequences further cause the
2 processor to control data flow based on at least one of the following parameters: at least one
3 parameter of said remote computer network, at least one parameter of a target device in said
4 remote computer network, an output display requirement of said audio/visual apparatus, a data
5 type of said information and a data characteristic of said information.

1 15. The system of Claim 14, wherein said at least one parameter of a target device is
2 one of the following: a bandwidth of said target device, and a storage size of said target device.

1 16. The system of Claim 14, wherein the stored instruction sequences further cause
2 the processor to control data flow by providing a handshake protocol based on said at least one
3 parameter, to optimize data flow.

1 17. A method for providing network connectivity in an audio/visual system coupled to
2 a computer, said computer having at least one memory, comprising:
3 providing a rendering circuit, said rendering circuit having a memory;
4 providing an emulation circuit coupled to the rendering circuit;
5 providing an audio/visual apparatus coupled to the rendering circuit and the
6 emulation circuit;
7 retrieving, by the emulation circuit, information stored in one of said memory of said
8 audio/visual apparatus or said memory of said computer;
9 forwarding said information to said rendering circuit for processing;
10 displaying the processed information.

1 18. The method of Claim 17, further comprising coupling said emulation circuit to a
2 remote computer network.

1 19. The method of Claim 18, wherein the remote computer network is selected from a
2 group consisting of: a global computer network, a local area network, and a wide area network.

1 20. The method of Claim 17, wherein said audio/visual apparatus is selected from a
2 group consisting of a digital versatile disk system, a digital video cassette recorder, an audio
3 display and a television.

1 21. The method of Claim 17, wherein said processing comprises decompressing
2 said information.

1 22. The method of Claim 17, wherein said processing comprises formatting
2 said information.

1 23. The method of Claim 17, further comprising packetizing said information for
2 distribution to a home network system.

1 24. The method of Claim 18, further comprising: determining if said information is
2 stored in one of said memory of said audio/visual apparatus or said memory of said computer; if
3 so, retrieving said information from one of said memory of said audio/visual apparatus or said
4 memory of said computer, otherwise, retrieving said information from said remote
5 computer network.

1 25. The method of Claim 24, further comprising storing information retrieved from
2 said remote network on said memory of one of said audio/visual apparatus or said computer.

1 26. The method of Claim 24, further comprising transcoding information retrieved
2 from said remote network.

1 27. The method of Claim 26, wherein said transcoding is performed by said computer.

1 28. The method of Claim 24, further comprising receiving a control signal from a
2 remote control, said control signal being converted by said audio/visual system to a network
3 command for retrieving said information.

1 29. The method of Claim 17, wherein said audio/visual apparatus is coupled to a
2 network comprising a plurality of audio/visual apparatus, and said information may be retrieved
3 from one of said plurality of audio/visual apparatus.

1 30. The method of Claim 18, further comprising controlling data flow in said
2 audio/visual system, based on at least one of the following parameters: at least one parameter of
3 said remote computer network, at least one parameter of a target device in said remote computer

4 network, an output display requirement of said audio/visual apparatus, a data type of said
5 information and a data characteristic of said information.

1 31. The method of Claim 30, wherein said at least one parameter of a target device is
2 one of the following: a bandwidth of said target device, and a storage size of said target device.

1 32. The method of Claim 30, wherein controlling data flow further comprises
2 providing a handshake protocol based on said at least one parameter, to optimize data flow.

1 33. An audio/visual system for providing network connectivity, said audio/visual
2 system coupled to a computer, comprising:
3 a rendering circuit having a memory;
4 an emulation circuit coupled to the rendering circuit, comprising:
5 a memory for storing instruction sequences;
6 a processor coupled to said memory, the processor executes the stored
7 instruction sequences;
8 an audio/visual apparatus coupled to the rendering circuit and the emulation circuit, said
9 audio/visual apparatus having a memory;
10 a display coupled to the rendering circuit;
11 wherein the stored instruction sequences cause the processor to (a) emulate one of said
12 audio/visual apparatus or said computer by retrieving information stored in one of said memory
13 of said audio/visual apparatus or said memory of said computer; (b) forward said information to
14 said rendering circuit for processing; (c) forward said processed information to said display; (d)
15 display the processed information.

1 34. The system of Claim 34, wherein said emulation circuit is coupled to a remote
2 computer network, wherein said information may be retrieved by one of said audio/visual
3 apparatus or said computer from said remote computer network.